

6 GALBA. 44

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Navys vol 1.

DIALOGUE

ON THE

NAVY.

*Artes, quas doceat quivis Eques atque Senator
Semet prognatos. —*

HOR.



L O N D O N :

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CALAB

DEALOGUE

N. V. Y.

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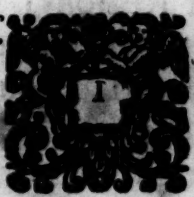


G A L B A.

A

Dialogue *on the* NAVY, &c.

PISO, CAMILLUS, GALBA.

Pis.  Have the Honour and Interest of the Navy much at Heart; for which Reason, *Camillus*, I reckon myself in a particular manner obliged to you for your Friend *Galba's* Acquaintance. His Reflections on that Subject have, without a Compliment, given me great Pleasure, as well as Information; and I begin to perceive that my former Opinions were in a good measure groundless, or indigested. Like a Person just entered upon a favourite Study, I'm impatient till I make a further Progress: and

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you

you know 'tis with this View that I have intreated you both to pass the Evening at my House. We have hitherto talk'd of these Matters by starts only; just as they happen'd to come uppermost in accidental Discourse. *Galba's* Remarks, in a closer Conversation, will, I dare say, shine to more Advantage, and, I hope, stand the Test of the strictest Inquiry.

Cam. You seem to lay great Strefs on *Galba's* Judgment; and I find already that I am only to act an Under-part in this Dialogue. As I may possibly differ from him in some Points, which I shall not incline to give up easily, this previous Partiality of yours alarms me, *Piso*. Should neither of us be convinced, which is the general Fate of all Arguments, in case of a joint Appeal to you, concerning the Validity of our Reasons; I'm afraid you would be too ready to decide it in his favour. I must therefore caution you to beware of Prepossession: for I drop the Word *Partiality*, lest it should sound somewhat harsh to a delicate Ear.

Pis. Silence would be the most polite Answer I could make, lest I should seem to suppose you serious. However, since you give me such a fair Opening, I shall take the Hint, and assure you, that I by no means incline to set myself up as an Arbitrator in your Disputes. If you will give me Leave, after hearing your different Opinions, and the

the Reasons on which you ground them, to tell you fairly what I think, I shall do it merely for the sake of further Information; being extremely desirous to know, as far as a Land-man's Comprehension will reach, the Condition and Conduct of the Navy. This, in a Country like ours, whose principal Bulwark is the Sea, must at all times be deem'd a Qualification fit for a Gentleman: but it is still more remarkably proper at present, when our Fleet is become so much the Subject of general Discourse; and, which I'm sorry to add, of loud Complaints and Ridicule.

Galb. You have touched on one of those Points, *Piso*, where perhaps *Camillus* and I shall differ. Like the rest of his Brethren, I doubt, he will not easily allow Landmen, in any respect, to be proper Judges of their Affairs.

Cam. If we are to form our Opinion of their judicial Capacity, from the daily Dissertations we hear on that Subject; from the ridiculous Censures, and wild Schemes, which are every-where talked of, and often published, without any regard to Decency; your Land-Judges in general will, I'm afraid, make but a sorry Figure, *Galba*.

Galb. The Question is not how idly People talk or write, without proper Materials, and without proper Intelligence, of things too which perhaps they do not understand, merely for want of due Pains and Appli-

cation ; since this will doubtless happen on all Subjects : but, setting aside the mechanical Part of the Business, or, if you will, the Craft of the Sea, I ask you, *Camillus*, Whether the Constitution, Interest, and Defects of the Navy, are not to be judged of by the same Rules of Reason which hold in other Cases? If so, I shall make no Scruple of appealing to *Piso* boldly for his Opinion : and if he gives it in my favour at any time, you may think what you please ; but I shall look upon myself as Victor in the Dispute.

Pis. Methinks you had better wave this Point, till you come to particular Remarks. It will then soonest appear, how far a Land-man may be suffered to judge of your Reasons. What say you, *Camillus*?

Cam. Nothing can be fairer than the Proposal. Perhaps I may not go quite so far as *Galba* ; nor be willing, intirely, to subject the Sea to the Censure of the Shore : but you wrong me, *Piso*, much, if you suppose, that I am against submitting to the Decisions of good Sense, properly informed. Our Naval Constitution either is, or ought to be, built on the solid Foundation of Sense ; which being once allowed, how shall we decline an honest Tryal? *Galba*, surely, will do me the Justice to own that, far from professing myself a Foe to Sense in Sea-Affairs or Seamen, he has always heard me talk of it

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as the second essential Qualification of an Officer.

Pis. What you said last, serves to give a seasonable Turn to the Conversation, and introduces a Subject of the greatest Importance to the Public; which therefore deserves our minutest Attention. It is a Maxim too well established to bear any Dispute, that Officers are the principal Strength, and, as it were, the Sinews of a Fleet or Army: consequently not so much the Success as Safety of either, must chiefly depend on a proper Set of these being employed. That Landmen may know how to judge of Sea-Officers, it is above all things necessary, to point out what ought to be their essential Qualifications. If good Sense is only the Second in your Opinion, pray, *Camillus*, what do you look upon as the First?

Cam. Virtue, *Piso*; Probity, public Spirit; a true Command of themselves. He that is a Slave to his own Passions, can never be fit to govern others; and a Person, void of Humanity, is not even worthy to be set over brute Beasts.

Pis. *Galba's* Sentiments will hardly differ from yours here; though I doubt your Opinion, as far as it relates to Virtue, Goodness of Heart, and true Worth, is not of a very general Extent. Honour is the Word on which Officers particularly pique themselves; and it would seem, as if few thought any thing

thing else required of such, than that they should be Men of Honour. What the Phrase precisely means, I am somewhat at a Loss to know; because I never heard an accurate Definition of it: but, according to my Conception of the Thing, 'tis a *Gothic* Mixture of Vice and Virtue, which ties our Hands up from certain Actions that are deemed inconsistent with the Principles and Character of a Gentleman, and leaves us at Liberty to commit others, frequently more heinous in themselves: provided always, that we be ready to give Satisfaction, when the Persons injured or affronted are likewise Men of Honour, and therefore obliged to demand it. In short, I find, that a very vicious Man may be still a Man of Honour; and that a Person of real Worth, by refusing, from a Motive of Conscience, to comply with the criminal Dictates of Honour, may forfeit his Pretensions to that fashionable Epithet, which oftentimes cannot be preserved without shedding innocent Blood.

To return from my Digression, into which your unexpected Doctrine of Virtue surprised me; Seamanship, I presume, is the next in your Catalogue of essential Qualifications.

Cam. The Word Seamanship, *Piso*, does not sufficiently comprehend the whole Compass of maritime Knowledge, which every commissioned Officer (for of such I would be supposed to speak) ought necessarily to possess.

possess. The Rules and Discipline of the Navy, the Art of Obedience, as well as the Art of Command, the Science and Stratagems of War; in short, whatever relates to his Function, or can in any Shape contribute towards his better Discharge of it; should be the constant and serious Subjects of his Meditation and Study.

Galb. After what *Camillus* has said concerning the proper and essential Qualifications of an Officer, to which certainly there cannot be the least Objection; is it not Matter of Astonishment, *Piso*, that Commissions should be procured on such easy Terms; and that mere Seamanship should be the single Point inquired into?

Cam. Let us leave no Room for Cavils. You know that certain Certificates are required of a young Man's Behaviour on board the different Ships of War, where he has served as a Midshipman, or Master's Mate. These, 'tis true, considering the Style in which they run, cannot well be refused to such as have just obeyed Orders, and behaved with a tolerable Share of Discretion and Sobriety: and that this may happen where the first and second Qualifications are scarcely possess'd at all, and the third not in an eminent Degree, is too plain to be disputed.

Pis. It would not be proper to forget that there is something else required, more essential perhaps than any Qualification you have
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yet named, *Camillus*; and oftentimes not less difficult to be procured, especially where Modesty stands in the way; the surest Sign, and the general Companion of Merit: I mean Interest, and powerful Recommendations.

Cam. In all Countries, particularly such as are free, where native Privileges and a Share in the Legislature add Weight to Birth and Property, Recommendations and Interest, *Piso*, must necessarily be considered; and to think of excluding these, so as to make Merit the sole Source and Standard of Preferments, however right in itself, would, I fear, be a vain and an impracticable Scheme. The Remedy seems to be plainly pointed out by common Sense. Was but a proper Method fallen upon to train up the Youth designed for Sea-Officers, they might then be a Credit to their Friends, and an Ornament to the Service; instead of being, as it often happens, preferred without Merit, to the great Prejudice of the Public, and to the Dishonour of their Patrons.

Pis. Pray tell me, *Camillus*, what Pains, what Methods, are now taken to form the Minds and Morals of the Youth, and to furnish them with a proper Stock of useful and gentlemanly Knowledge? Surely this, if any thing, has long deserved our utmost Care, ever since it was acknowledged that on the Strength and proper Conduct of the Navy,
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the Power, Trade, and Riches of the Nation almost solely depend.

Cam. I have been so great a Sufferer, *Piso*, by the present Neglect, rather than Method of Education, that I never reflect upon it without the greatest Grief. *Galba*, to whose Friendship, Advice, and Assistance, I owe what I have since done towards retrieving my Loss of Time, will answer the Question you propose; and can, perhaps better than any Man I know, prescribe the Remedy required. To him therefore, with your Leave, I most readily transfer the Task.

Galb. The Compliment *Camillus* has pass'd on me far exceeds the trifling Merit of my Services. He had such an eager Thirst after Knowledge, and so great a Desire to be qualified for his Business, according to his own rigid Rules, that but a small Assistance was wanted. If some Hints of mine were useful towards fixing the Plan and Method of his Application, such a cheap Favour scarcely deserves Thanks.

I would not seem to cast Reflections on the Gentlemen of the Navy. Several there are, who, prompted by the same Spirit as *Camillus*, have, with unwearied Pains and Assiduity, set themselves to repair the Defects of their Education. Some, without this Help, by the mere Force of Nature, or Benefit of good Company, have form'd their Principles in such a Manner, and laid down

such Rules for their Conduct, that they make a laudable Figure in the Service, and justly bear the Character of humane, discreet, and brave Officers.

Had such been blest with a more liberal Education, what might we not have expected from them? They themselves feel the Want of it on a thousand mortifying Occasions; and the better their Understanding, the more exquisite is their Regret. Must it not gall a Man of Spirit, *Piso*, when others of an inferior Rank, and sometimes of a much inferior Capacity, shine in Conversation upon Subjects which every Gentleman is supposed to be tolerably well acquainted with; but on which he himself is forced to be remarkably silent?

Pis. I have observed on such Occasions, in Men of a distinguished Rank ashore, and of very good natural Endowments, a Silence, *Galba*, which has both surprised and hurt me: and if, from the Pain I felt for them, I may venture to guess at their own inward Sense of Shame, I believe it was such as nothing but the Horror of Guilt could surpass. What I have now said (if you will pardon a short Digression) may, perhaps better than any other Reason, account for the Shyness of the Rich and Great, in admitting Men, eminent for their Parts and Knowledge, to converse with them on a free familiar Footing. Far from its being owing to their Want
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of Esteem for Knowledge; it proceeds rather from their being so thoroughly convinced of its high Worth, that they cannot bear the Thoughts of exposing their most inexcusable Ignorance. Can we wonder, after this, that the select Knot of their Companions, the Persons with whom they chuse to live at Ease, should be Men of a less dreadful Understanding, to whom, without the Risk of being detected, they may wear the Face of Wisdom, and prate with Dignity? For my Part, so little am I surpris'd at their Choice of Friends, that I have always thought the weakest of them discovered an exquisite Judgment in this respect, by suiting their own Class of Abilities so exactly.

Gal. This is rank Satire, *Piso*; the Truth of which, as I converse little with the Great, or their Companions, I cannot attest from my own Experience: but I'm very willing to take it for granted, as it serves the Purpose of my present Remarks.

There is another obvious Inconveniency which attends the Want of Education in those Sea-Officers whom I described last, and allowed to be Men of Worth and Spirit. It cannot be expected they should write correctly, nor with that Propriety of Style which becomes a Gentleman. As they are frequently called upon for long Letters, and under a Necessity to correspond with Persons in high Stations; this must necessarily put

them to a great Difficulty, and oblige them to depend too much on their Clerks, who are not always the best Judges of what is proper. I might add, that a Person who cannot dispatch a pertinent Letter upon Occasion, without the Hand or Help of another, must have a cheap Opinion of himself, which is perhaps, in Reality, the greatest of all Mortifications.

Cam. You deal, I'm afraid, too tenderly with the Sores of the Navy, *Galba*. That under our present Consideration, like a Gangrene, has corrupted the whole Mass of Blood; and, unless an effectual Remedy be speedily thought of, and applied, will prove fatal to the Nation and the Navy together. It is by no means sufficient, that a small Number of Officers should start up, with accidental, and, as we manage Matters, with unrequir'd Qualifications; for a proper Portion of Merit, if not the Cause, ought at least to be look'd upon as an indispensable Condition of Preferment. If those you described last, are liable to great Objections in point of Capacity, what shall we say of others, who, with as small a Share of Knowledge, have neither the Force of Nature, nor the Benefit of good Company, to plead in their Behalf? And are there not many such, who, so soon as they can procure the Rank of Post-Captains, no matter by what Means, nor by whose Recommendation, are afterwards, according

according to their Seniority, intitled, by the Custom of the Navy, to the highest Dignities, and to the most important Commands?

Galb. I acknowledge the Justice of your Observation, *Camillus*; and shall now answer the Question which *Piso* proposed. The few Remarks I made, by way of Preamble, were design'd purely to prevent his conceiving too contemptible an Opinion of our Sea-Officers, when he shall find what little Care is bestowed on their Education.

By a mistaken Notion which prevails, no sooner is a Youth design'd for the Sea, but all manner of genteel Accomplishments come to be look'd upon as less necessary; and his idle Disposition is apparently wink'd at. Perhaps this is the chief Reason, why such a Number of them conceive a violent Inclination for that boistrous Element, which looks like an unnatural Propensity. They fancy to themselves, that a Sea-life requires no Labour of Thought; and, sick of Books and Application, they want to be released on any Terms.

Be this as it will, they certainly bring a very small Foundation of Knowledge along with them in general. The Sum of their Learning afterwards, consists in the Theory of Navigation, and just so much Mathematics, as is necessary for that Purpose. It cannot be well expected, that the Schoolmaster
should

should be qualified to teach them any thing else; since his Encouragement is too small, and his Footing too low, for any Man of a tolerable Education.

Thus, without a proper Foundation of their own, without a Tutor to put them in the way, with many bad Examples before their Eyes, and but few good ones; I need not tell you, *Pisò*, what dreadful Effects this Situation will produce, both with regard to their Understanding and Morals.

Cam. Can we with Reason expect, that such a School as this, should breed a Set of Officers fit to be Guardians of the Nation's Honour, and to realize our boasted Dominion of the Sea? If single Ships of War often, and sometimes whole Squadrons, are ill-conducted, to our particular Shame, and to the great Detriment of the common Cause, is there any room to doubt whence it proceeds? For my Share, so far am I from being surpris'd at hearing any thing of this kind, that, sometimes when the Reverse happens, I congratulate the Genius of the Nation; which, without Pains, without Culture, will, by Starts, remarkably break forth, and triumph over the Spirit of our Enemies; as if thereby Heaven meant to convince us, what a glorious and steady Figure we have it in our Power to make, if we will only follow the plain Dictates of Reason, and not be wanting to ourselves.

Pis.

Pis. It remains to be consider'd, by what Means this strange and original Defect of the Navy might be remedied, and a Set of Officers form'd, equal to that important Trust which the Nation reposes in their Hands.

Galba, from some Hints I have heard you drop in former Conversations; I am well assured, you have bestowed a good deal of Reflection on the Subject. Were a proper and practicable Plan propos'd, I think it would bid fair for meeting with a favourable Reception from the present Board of Admiralty; particularly from the noble Duke, who presides there. As his single Motive for accepting of that Place, and condescending to share the Commission of Lord High Admiral, must have been a generous Desire to serve the Public, in a Station of the greatest Consequence; surely, therefore, to promote and patronize a Plan, which, if well executed, might remedy the principal Defect of our naval Power, and strengthen the Bulwark of the Nation, would contribute no less to his Satisfaction than Glory.

Galb. You prescribe a difficult Task, *Piso*; for which I am not sufficiently prepared. I have, 'tis true, frequently reflected on the great Importance of a proper Education for Sea-Officers; and I'm pretty clear, in general, as to the Sort of Education required. But I never digested my Sentiments into the Form of a regular Plan, as not imagining it would
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take Effect; for I did not chuse to flatter myself with the whimsical Dreams of a Projector: I shall, nevertheless, communicate my Notions to you, such as they are, without Scruple; and, to say the Truth, I shall be glad to hear them myself. Setting aside some random Hints which have been flung out at times, in the Course of superficial Conversation, they have hitherto remained a Secret within my own Breast; and I am now first called upon for a serious and full Account of them. When they come once fairly to see the Light, and to be cloathed in honest *English*, I shall myself be the better able to judge, how far they are well-grounded and practicable. The Censure, Assistance, and Advice, of two such Friends, will mend them perhaps: and thus, *Camillus*, if *Piso* pleases, we may jointly contribute towards the Birth of a Plan.

Pis. This Preamble of yours raises one's Curiosity greatly, *Galba*. Who would not wish to be present at the Birth of original Conceptions? Pray begin.

Galb. A Royal Seminary should, I think, be forthwith instituted, under the Direction of an Intendant, and proper Masters; with such Endowments and Provision as the Scheme to be proposed, and the Nature of the Service, shall require.

The Number of the Youth to be there educated must be fixed in Proportion to the
general

general Demand of the Navy, for a Supply of Officers.

That they may not lose the Opportunity of learning the practical Part of their Business, while at a proper Age, the Plan of Education, begun in the Seminary, must afterwards, as Occasion shall require, be carried on at Sea.

For this Purpose it will be necessary to provide a proper Set of Schoolmasters, well qualified, and of approv'd Morals; who may teach the Youth on board, and therein follow the Method which the Seminary shall prescribe. It would be superfluous to mention, that these ought to have genteel Salaries in the mean time, and the Prospect of being otherwise considered, according to the Length and Merit of their Services.

Of the Seminary, the first and most essential Business ought to be, to form the Minds and Principles of the Youth, and to beget or cultivate in them a sincere Love of Virtue. To gain this great Point, the whole Plan of Education, the whole Constitution of the Seminary, and the whole Conduct and Conversation of the Masters should be steadily directed. Perhaps no People upon Earth ever had a stronger Propensity to Virtue than the Natives of *Great Britain*; so that such a Scheme, well executed here, at a seasonable Time of Life, must, in all Probability, be crowned with remarkable Success.

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In order to recommend and reward early Worth, such as are eminent for this above the rest ought to be distinguished by certain Preferments, Dignities, and Titles, which should be contrived for that Purpose, and conferred with the strictest Impartiality. As young Minds are quick to discover, and candid in acknowledging the Merit of their Companions; the greater Share they had in the Disposal of such Pre-eminences, the stronger would their Ambition be to deserve them in their Turn. A Hint that occurs to me will serve for an Example.

I suppose there is to be a System of Laws drawn up in concise, strong and plain Terms, which shall point out the Duty required of them, and the Penalty of each Transgression. To try Delinquents, I think a Set of Judges ought to be chosen from among themselves, who should, after a fair Hearing, give a decisive Verdict: nor would I have any Youth suffer the disgraceful Punishment of Stripes, that had not been thus convicted by the Judgment of his Companions. This, and other Institutions of the like Nature, would beget in them early Habits of Virtue, by giving them Opportunities to practise it; and by such Means the Seminary might come to be look'd upon as a fair Image, in Epitome, of a well-regulated Common-wealth.

Next to the Love of Virtue, the Point of the greatest Consequence is an eager Thirst
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after Knowledge, and a Taste for Reading. Should a proper Plan take place, among other good Effects, it would probably produce this, that the Youth designed for the Navy would be better taught, and more assiduous at School; when it should appear to their Friends and themselves, that Virtue, Sense and Knowledge, were the chief Qualifications required in an Officer: and that, in order to make a Figure at the Seminary first, and afterwards in the Service, it will be their Interest to lose no Time in learning the fundamental Rudiments of Education. Instead of gross Ignorance, and a mortal Aversion to Books, it is to be hoped they would then bring along with them a previous Acquisition of useful Literature, and a strong Inclination to distinguish themselves by their future Progress.

I do not say, that, for some time at least, it should absolutely be required; but it ought from the Beginning to be considered as a Matter of the greatest Use and Moment, their coming to the Seminary with a tolerable Knowledge of the *Latin* Tongue, as it will be a noble Foundation to build upon. By this means a Grammatical Knowledge of Language in general is best got; and it would be needless to observe how much conversing early with the purest Models must necessarily contribute towards forming the Taste and polishing the Sentiments of Youth. This, I think,

may be justly looked upon as the great High Road of Knowledge, to which indeed various By-paths lead; but these are clogged with Difficulties and Obstacles, rugged and disagreeable to all, and quite insuperable to many.

Let no Man tell me, that, without the Help of *Latin*, several have acquired an extensive Knowledge, and a correct Taste, even far beyond others that have had what is call'd a liberal Education; for this I will readily confess, to the Glory sometimes of an admirable Genius, and oftener to the Praise of an indefatigable Affiduity. But were such Persons themselves to be questioned on the Subject, I believe they would honestly lament the Want of those Advantages, which must have enabled them to make a more conspicuous Figure.

Should this Basis of Education, which I recommend, be judged of less Consequence than I suppose, so long as it is acknowledged to be necessary for Gentlemen, it must still be look'd upon as proper here; since why should Sea-Officers want a Qualification, that Persons of their Rank ashore, though not of their Importance to the Nation, are ashamed to be without? Besides, as no Reason can be given, why a Youth should be sent either to the Sea, or the Seminary, before the full Age of Thirteen, he has Time enough, before, to make a considerable Progress in his *Latin*,
without

without neglecting other Accomplishments, which claim Part of his Diligence; and what so much deserves the strict Attention of Parents, or of those to whom the sacred Charge of Youth is committed, as to give them an early Habit of Application to Books, and the Business of Thought? This, by bending their Talent of Reflection on suitable Objects, will improve their Understandings, and call forth those Seeds of Virtue, which, however strongly planted in their natural Dispositions, are frequently choak'd and over-run with Weeds, for want of due Culture.

Idleness is the Bane of Youth, and the principal Source and Foundation of vicious Habits; for the human Mind, especially at first, has a Sprightliness in it, and a busy Turn, which cannot remain inactive; and, unless employ'd in a proper manner, it will carve out Work for itself, such as the Love of Pleasure, and untutor'd Passions, prescribe. In short, the critical Age we speak of, is the Spring-season of Virtue; when, by the Help of assiduous Pains and Culture, she puts forth her beautiful Blossoms, which seldom afterwards fail to produce a rich Crop: but when Idleness, and bad Examples, like an untimely Frost, have nipped the tender Shoots in the Bud, the Damage is hardly to be retrieved; and the general Consequence is an incorrigible State of Vice.

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To what else, but the shameful Neglect of Youth, can we, with Reason, ascribe that lamentable Corruption of Manners, which prevails at present among all Ranks, beyond the Degeneracy of former Times? If Religion, Philosophy, common Sense, inform us, that the Happiness of human Nature can only consist in the Practice of Virtue; and that the Health and Vigour of a State chiefly depend on the Spirit and Morals of the People; whoever professes the least Regard to the Good of his Country, to the Peace of his own Conscience, or to the true Welfare of his Children, must acknowledge, that, to see these educated properly, should be the principal Object of his Care.

You must not wonder, *Piso*, that my Dissertation on this new Subject (for such it is to me) should be somewhat void of Method and Regularity; nor that I should intersperse Observations, and now-and-then Digressions, which may seem partly foreign to the Business in Hand. My Scheme, as I told you first of all, is not so much to exhibit an accurate and well-digested Plan, as to give a fair and full Account of my private Reflections: Reflections which I could not help making on what I have seen, with Shame, Surprise, and Sorrow.

Pis. I perceive no superfluous Remark, no want of Method, hitherto, nor any thing inconsistent with the Nature of a Plan. An
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Article here and there may require to be further explained, and a few Questions might be asked. But these, *Galba*, shall be reserved till you finish the Course of your Reflections; which I would by no means interrupt, and therefore beg you will proceed.

Galb. Since you waive all Objections, at present, to the former Part of my Discourse, I shall go on with my Reflections, as you desire; and describe next, what Branches of Knowledge I suppose necessary to be taught in the Seminary, or under its Direction at Sea.

The Theory of Navigation, and whatever else is necessary towards a sufficient Comprehension of that, may be learned with Ease, in so short a Time, that, when we speak of laborious Studies, it scarcely deserves mention. I shall, nevertheless, take notice of it first; because it has long been at Sea the chief, if not the sole, Branch of Knowledge taught or required. In order that the Rules and Reasons of the whole Art may be most accurately known and understood, I think a deeper Foundation ought to be laid in Mathematics, which is, of itself, a noble Study, wonderfully calculated, besides, to produce the Habit of close Reasoning on other Subjects. It would therefore seem extremely proper, that the Youth should be put in such strong Possession of the Principles, and

brought so far on in the Tract of this Science, as that afterwards, should their Inclination lead them, they may make what further Progress they please.

A Reflection occurs here, with regard to the different Branches of Knowledge which shall appear necessary to be taught at the Seminary. Several, if not most of them, are of such an extensive Kind, that it is not to be supposed the Youth, while there, can learn them to Perfection. A Competency for the Time, with a sufficient Foundation to go on afterwards by themselves, in pursuance of a proper Method to be pointed out, is all that can reasonably be desired.

To mention a strong parallel Case, neither Schools nor Universities, on which a much larger Compass of Time is necessary to be bestowed, can in Reality be said to constitute learned Men. It is enough that they put them fairly in the Way, and enable them to become so by their private Application afterwards. The Truth is, when a Master has so qualified his Pupil that he is both able and willing to proceed without his Assistance; his Task is, properly speaking, at an End. As a judicious Companion and Friend, his Conversation and Advice may continue to be useful; but the Master ceases.

History must be look'd upon as a fundamental Study. For this Purpose an accurate and clear Compend should be found or fram'd, exhibit-

exhibiting, in a proper and well-proportion'd Size, as it were to a single View, the Map of Ages ; the Rise, Policy, Progress, and Fate, of Empires, Commonwealths, and Kingdoms ; the Birth, Increase, and the various Vicissitudes of Sciences and Arts ; but, above all, the Footsteps and Tract of true Virtue. The Heroes of human Nature, the Benefactors of States, the Friends of Justice and Society, that have distinguished themselves, by their illustrious Actions, in different Ages and Countries, ought to be mark'd out, in a particular manner, to the honest, unvitiated, and therefore discerning Eye of Youth. Worthily to record the Virtues of such, is surely the principal Task of History ; since, to celebrate them, in a more lofty Style, even the divine Art of Poetry was invented.

Some Parts of History will require a minuter Attention than others ; for Example, whatever relates to maritime Affairs, in antient or modern Times. In that case, the Compend, after giving a concise Representation of the Subject, should refer to Books, which handle it at large. These, or such Portions of them as are necessary, the Youth ought to peruse with Care, and so commit the principal Facts and Observations to their Memory, that they may have them at their Fingers Ends on all Occasions. I shall soon have Occasion to mention what, I presume,

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will be the most probable Method to gain this and other essential Purposes.

Need I take notice, that the History of their own Country, should be made familiar to them, especially the Naval Part of it? A distinct Knowledge of the Government and Constitution is likewise most necessary. To perfect them in this, as well as to ripen their Sentiments of Liberty, no Reading will conduce so much as the Collection of Parliamentary Debates; which, so far as it goes, contains the most valuable Records of the Times, and best explains the Genius of the Nation, the Springs of Action, and the Spirit and Views of contending Parties.

Let it suffice here, just to recommend Geography to the Youth, as the Handmaid of History. That a Branch of Knowledge, so useful in itself, and at the same time acquir'd with so much Ease, should, in most Schools, be so shamefully neglected, must seem truly surprising: but our Wonder will diminish greatly, should it appear, that many of the Masters themselves are unacquainted, not only with Maps in general, but even with the first Principles of the Art.

A regular and complete System of Virtue, grounded on Religion, Truth, and Nature, is, beyond all Controversy, the most material Point of Education. That this should be so taught, as to make a deep and durable Impression on the Heart, is an Affair of the
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first Consequence, and requires to be conducted with the utmost Attention and Zeal. It will not be sufficient to furnish young Minds with a cold Representation of moral Truths, and with dry Definitions of Right and Wrong; for this is a sort of Knowledge which ought to be communicated with Fire; and unless the Teacher can, with a noble Enthusiasm, touch the Passions, while he convinces the Understanding, he will fail in the most essential Part of his Duty.

The System I speak of, should therefore be conceived in the strongest Terms; and, I think, for the Benefit of Memory, copied by the Youth in the fairest Characters.

With regard to what other moral Books it may be proper to peruse or dip into, they should be such as present glowing Pictures of Virtue to the Reader; and, with masterly Strokes, draw Vice in its proper Colours, as an Object of Deformity, which merits our highest Aversion. Books of this Stamp are, I confess, not easily to be met with; and, after ransacking all Ages, Languages, and Countries, we shall find but an inconsiderable Number at last. Lifeless Dissertations indeed, Volumes of unanimated and unaffecting Virtue, swarm every-where, and the Shelves of Libraries groan beneath the Burden. Such Compositions are commonly the Copies of Copies, Translations from Translations, Thefts and Collections from a Mass of Au-

thors, jumbled together without Taste or Spirit: whereas the true Teacher of Virtue, must be the first to feel the Dignity of his own Doctrine; and his Lessons can only acquire Fire and Force from the Warmth and Vigour of his inward Sentiments: these, when elevated to a proper Pitch, break forth and communicate themselves in a Style, which the greatest Orator, without them, cannot affect; and the most able Translator, unless inspired by the Subject, must sink under the Weight of his Original.

Perhaps it may surprise you to hear a Person, that has passed a considerable Part of his Time at Sea, mention the Names of *Aristotle* and *Plato*; but, I cannot help earnestly wishing here, that their sublime and beautiful Descriptions of Virtue, were, with the masterly Hand of a *Cicero*, transplanted into our Language, for the Benefit of Youth, when ripe for such Impressions. It was their Philosophy, *Piso* (for in that the Wisdom of *Greece* chiefly consisted), which civilized *Rome*, and the *Roman* Empire, and paved the Way for the diviner Dictates of Christianity.

Had I not thought it superfluous to mention a Point of such evident and great Importance, I should have laid it down as the first and most essential Article of Education in the Seminary, that the Tenets and Principles of our holy Religion should be taught there,

there, with the strictest Pains, according to the pure Doctrine of the Church of *England*. Although this Reflection is, I perceive, somewhat out of Place, I must nevertheless add another, with regard to Differences in point of Faith, and to the vast Multiplicity of Sects among Christians. Let that Spirit of Charity prevail in the Seminary, which the great Teacher himself so warmly recommends to his Followers. This Word brings me back to the Subject in Hand, with so much Propriety, that, perhaps, my short Digression will cease to seem unseasonable.

Charity, that mild and amiable Word, not only denotes a candid and fair Allowance for Diversities of Opinion, but likewise, with a nobler Extent, includes that moral Benevolence, and Rectitude of Heart, from which all Justice and Humanity, properly so called, originally flow. That the Precepts of our divine Lawgiver, which relate to this lofty Principle of Goodness, are indeed the Perfection of Virtue, must be strongly pointed out in the System required.

To conclude (for my Discourse on this Article exceeds the Bounds I proposed); in order to fill the Minds of Youth with awful and elevated Impressions of the Supreme Being, and with Sentiments of Love, Reverence, and Fear, which constitute true Piety, the first Branch of moral Excellence, and, as it were, Charity's elder Sister, the Bible, should
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be frequently read and explained to them, and its sublime Beauties made familiar to their View.

The last Article I shall mention, comprehends a Fund of Literature, and a Cluster of Arts ; the common Principles of which, first, and afterwards of each the peculiar Characteristics, should be thoroughly possessed and understood. Criticism, itself a noble Art, must be the great Guide here. Of this therefore, according to the Method already proposed in other Articles, I recommend a general System, containing accurate Rules whereby to judge of the various Kinds of Writing in Prose and Poetry. These Rules ought to be short, plain, and comprehensive.

An Elegance of Taste, which is the Purpose aimed at in the present Article, can only be taught or acquired by reading some of the best Models, and judiciously relishing their Beauties. The more perfect the Model is, so much in proportion easier will be the practical Application of Rules.

I must here repeat the vast Importance of *Latin*; and why should I not add *Greek*, since it may be soon learned by such as have a sufficient Foundation in the former? They will, especially the *Greek* Tongue, enable the Youth to converse freely with the great and original Standards of Taste; from whom the best modern Authors evidently copy the Spirit, and often the Substance, of their Productions.

ductions. As in the different Branches of Painting, for Example, a small Number of consummate Masterpieces accurately considered, and their Beauties skillfully felt, must be the quickest Means and Method to make us competent Judges of that curious Art; so, to give one a strong and critical Conception of Eloquence, a few select Orations of *Demosthenes* and *Cicero*, well explain'd, and the secret Sources of their Strength discovered, will better suffice, and answer the Teacher's Purpose more effectually, than a thousand middling Performances of the Kind.

The same Remark may be, with equal Justice, applied through the whole Circle of Literature: from whence it will appear, that the Business of forming a good Taste requires less Time than would at first Sight seem necessary. Such indeed as are absolutely destitute of the noble Helps of *Greek* and *Latin*, must be contented with making a slower Progress, and with acquiring at last but an inferior Portion of it: yet even these may, with due Pains, and a proper Insight into some of the most correct *English* and *French* Models, attain to what will be deem'd a reasonable Competency.

Some general Remarks on the Machines and Weapons of Education, which I judge proper for the Seminary, remain to be briefly mentioned:

mentioned: for I hasten towards a Conclusion, *Piſſe*; being almost out of Breath.

Writing is by far the principal Machine; the perpetual Use of which ought therefore to be first recommended. By this Method, judiciously managed, the Youth will not only best and soonest acquire a Fund of Knowledge, and rivet the same in their Memories; but likewise learn to digest and improve their Reflections, as well as to form and diversify their Style, according to the Nature of the Subject, and the sensible Rules of Criticism.

Various may be the Tasks prescribed to them in this Way. They should sometimes labour to translate, with Spirit, beautiful Passages of eminent Authors, or to copy them with the Freedom of a Paraphrase. At other times they may be required to put together their own Sentiments on a Subject sufficiently studied; in the solemn Shape of Reasoning, the sprightly Dress of Humour and Wit, or in the familiar and easy Garb of an Epistle. Whether their Manner of Writing is grave or gay, whether their Genius affects Humour or Dignity, they ought, on all Occasions, to have correct and proper Models in their Eye.

Trials and Exercises of this Sort will be the quickest and most effectual Means to discover the Genius of a Youth, and where his chief Strength lies: a Secret which it
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equally concerns himself and the Teacher to know. Let me just add a Reflection here, which will serve as an Introduction to the following general Remark: The Practice I propose will inure them not only to think well, and, which is a very rare Case, to know precisely what they think; but likewise to communicate their Sentiments with Force, Elegance and Perspicuity.

The next Machine to be made use of in the Seminary, for polishing the Minds and Manners of Youth, is Conversation; I mean that in which they themselves shall bear a considerable Part. They should be betimes accustomed, and by manly Methods encouraged, to speak with Ease on serious and useful Subjects, especially such as have engaged their greatest Depth of Attention. Conversations of a public Nature, on Points of Virtue, Literature, History, should therefore be solemn and frequent.

No Points will be more proper to be canvass'd in this Manner than those which shall be prescrib'd as Subjects for the Pen. In the Freedom of Debate many noble Hints will occur.

Just to mention here, that a graceful Elocution, or, if the Phrase displease you not, the Rules and Art of Voice, should be studied with the strictest Regard, will possibly suffice.

A Spirit of Emulation is the last great Engine of the Seminary which I shall speak of. In order to produce this, and keep it alive, every Sort of Merit required there should be rewarded with proper Marks of Distinction. I mentioned before, that the principal Stations of Honour ought to be possessed by such of the Youth as excel in Worth and Virtue. The second Rank is unquestionably due to Taste and Knowledge, to Genius and good Sense. A short Example will better point out and illustrate the Nature of this Precedency, than a long Dissertation.

From among the most ingenious, such in particular, who, by solid Proofs of the Pen, have given the surest Pledge of their Progress, a select Number should be pitched upon as Judges, to peruse and examine the written Performances of the rest; and under the Correction and Eye of the Masters, after pointing out the Faults and Beauties of each, to fix its proper Class of Merit. Many lesser Encouragements and Degrees of Honour, suitable to the various Degrees of Improvement in Knowledge, may be devised: but this should be the principal Reward proposed, and the great Point in View.

When once a Youth shall have attained to this high Rank of Taste and Judgment, the second essential Purpose of Education may be looked upon as gain'd. Strongly to secure the first, and, as it were, to deepen the solid

Foundations of Virtue, perhaps another Hint, which I shall suggest, would contribute much. It is a-kin to the former: and indeed no Plan of this Sort can be well contrived, where the corresponding Parts are void of Similitude and Harmony.

For the chief Rank of Merit, where Virtue, Judgment, Knowledge, meet; and, to make use of a Scripture-Phrase, kiss one another; a peculiar Pre-eminence or Dignity should be thought of, and, with a religious Impartiality, conferred on the most Deserving. At present the Name of the Thing comes pattering to me than an accurate Definition of it. I shall, however, in a few Words, give you the Sketch of my Conception. The highest Order and Class of the Youth I would have distinguished by the Title of Censors. These, in a subordinate Degree, should, together with the Masters, constitute a supreme Court for inquiring into the Manners, Morals, and Characters of the Seminary, for establishing Rules and Regulations that may be still wanted, and for receiving such Appeals and Complaints as shall appear of Consequence enough to merit their Decision or Notice.

A Course of good Behaviour being requisite to prove a steady Foundation in Virtue, they will necessarily be Youths of a pretty considerable Standing, who shall be dignified with the Rank of Censors. Those who shall

have Possession of this Title, when their Course of Education ends, must be looked upon as eminently qualified to run the Race of Honour. It may likewise be supposed probable, that others, who leave the Seminary without this noble Badge of Distinction, shall, nevertheless, have acquired a sufficient Fund of Merit for the Service. This, however, ought, I think, to be particularly specified in a solemn Manner; and the Characters of such, from an accurate and equitable Retrospection into the Whole of their past Conduct, should be drawn up by the College of Censors, and registered.

I am aware of an Objection which may be started here, as if such high Marks of Distinction conferred upon some, however deservedly, might damp the Spirit of the rest, and discourage their future Emulation. The Reverse would, I believe, happen in general; on both Sides a generous Contention and Strife, in the Course of Manhood, to preserve or recover the Start that was gain'd or lost at the Seminary. Of this second and more important Competition their Country must ultimately judge, by the Standard of their Actions.

To guide or assist the Decisions of the Public, it were to be wish'd, that the Sons of the Seminary would afterwards keep up among themselves this Censorial Jurisdiction over the Characters and Conduct of one another.

another. With Ease might they frame themselves into Societies, or rather a Society, which would answer this Purpose; since the Model of the Seminary may suggest Hints for a Plan: and surely no Man, who wishes to live up strictly to the Dictates of Reason and Virtue, can contrive to lay himself under too strong or too many Checks.

Thus you see, that I have fairly got out of the Seminary, *Piso*. The Reflections I promised end here: nor shall I add any thing else, besides what your and *Camillus's* Questions or Objections may render necessary.

Pis. At present I shall forbear to bestow the Praise which I think due to your Reflections. In my Opinion, *Galba*, there can be no solid Objections offered. Some perhaps there may be, which, weak in themselves, have a strong Foundation in vulgar Prejudice. I shall mention one or two which occur to me.

The first concerns the Sort of Education you require. It will be said by some, that Knowledge, and a refined Taste, would indispose Men for a rough Business on a rougher Element. A Notion, you know, prevails, not among the Rabble only, that the great Heroes of the Trade have been mere unpolished Seamen. These are popularly cried up, and the *Shovels* and *Bamboes* of the Navy celebrated, in Opposition to the Sons of
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of good Families, whom the World supposes to have had the Benefit of a better Education. Possibly this Supposition is not always well grounded: but I confess I'm somewhat surpris'd to find, that Men of high Birth, and who therefore have at least had an early Access to good Company, should frequently shew less Spirit, and behave with less Discretion and Dignity, than such as have risen from the lowest Rank of Life, and whose highest Circle of Acquaintance is confined to Sea-port Towns.

Galba. The Objection you propose is of a complicated Nature, and seems equally levelled at Birth and Knowledge. A short Answer, if Courage and Conduct are both allowed to be necessary Qualifications for an Officer, will be sufficient. By Courage, I mean a rational and steady Pitch of Resolution, proceeding from Manly Motives; not a brutal Fierceness, above Controul, and void of Thought. That public Spirit, a delicate Sense of Reputation, and a glorious Ambition to distinguish ourselves in the Perils of War, by Presence of Mind and Intrepidity, Qualities seldom acquired without a tolerable Education at least, are the genuine Sources of true Valour, will, I think, admit of no Dispute. With regard to Conduct, the very Word implies a Fund of Sagacity, guided by Knowledge and Reflection.

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Need I take Pains to prove, *Piso*, that such who from a close Habit of Reasoning, the Child of Study, can readily form judicious Schemes, weigh Consequences, foresee Dangers, and either improve the sudden Advantages, or best remedy the casual Distresses of Fortune, are by far the fittest to be trusted with the Command of Fleets, or of single Ships, at any Time? I might as well waste Words to convince a Person, that a Pilot should most exactly know the Position of Rocks and Sands, and the Tract of Safety for Ships committed to his Charge. An ignorant Pilot, a rash and ill-qualified Commander, may sometimes blunder into the right Way; but is that a Reason, why they should be trusted in Affairs where their probable Misconduct may produce the most fatal Consequences?

Because I would not leave room for a Cavil, I shall suppose here, that now-and-then a great Commander may start up, who, void of liberal Knowledge, has a Sort of Sagacity that resembles Instinct; and a Genius for War, which seems, without Help, and almost without Reflection, to discern suddenly what is proper to be done on all Occasions. But such a Prodigy, such a *Shakespeare* of Nature, in any Shape, so seldom exists, and so much seldomer finds an Opportunity to make himself known, that to say more on the Subject, would be ridiculous.

I shall likewise own, that some there doubtless are, who, not better educated, and wanting besides this wonderful Gift of Sagacity, by long Experience, and oftentimes by severely feeling the bad Effects of their injudicious Conduct, have at last acquired a Prudence, and a Capacity, fit for Commanders in Chief, especially where Caution is necessary, to which their Age, and the Memory of their past Errors, generally too much incline them. Is any Man so blind, as not to see, what a Risk the Navy must run from such Officers, *Piso*, who, before they come to be qualified for their Business, may lose, by their Indiscretion, the fairest Opportunities of humbling the powerful Enemies of *Britain*, and blunder Ships of War, or Convoys, into their Hands? Strong Examples might be quoted; but why should I trouble you with Facts that are recent and obvious to your Remembrance?

Your Observation is just, that Persons well-born are frequently void of Merit; and what can we suppose a stronger Argument for a virtuous and proper Education? Where this is wanting, the Youth, brought up in Affluence, having it too much in their Power to gratify their criminal Passions, contract many Vices, from which others are, by their Poverty, luckily preserved. The two great Banes of a martial Spirit

rit are, Intemperance and Effeminacy, to which neglected Nature is exceedingly prone, and, where the Means are at hand, seldom resists the Temptation. Interest, and the powerful Screen of Blood, are another great Source of Misconduct in Persons nobly descended; whereas Officers of a meaner Extraction, besides a greater Share of Discretion and Temperance in their Youth, have this further Advantage, that, for a considerable Part of their Lives at least, they must continue to be circumspect in their Behaviour, since on that, not on their Friends or Family, their present Livelihood, as well as their future Expectations, depend.

To such as shall think this a sufficient Reason for giving the Preference in general to Men of low Birth, it may with Justice be represented, that should Youths of Distinction come unvitiated to the Seminary, they would be the most promising Subjects for a Teacher to work upon, as he will have the fairest Handle for inspiring them with noble Sentiments, and an high-mettled Emulation. I might appeal to you, *Camillus*, whether the conspicuous Figure which some of your Ancestors have made in the Service of their Country, was not an essential Motive of your Diligence, by kindling in your Breast a strong Desire to resemble them. Let me conclude with this Remark, that Virtue, when accompanied by Birth, like

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Diamonds skilfully polish'd and set, shines with a perfect Lustre, and attracts the supreme Veneration of the Public: Neither is it a light Affair, *Pisò*, that the Navy should be chiefly commanded by such, whose Merit and Quality together will procure it high Respect from our Friends and Enemies.

Left you should fancy, that I wish to see the Gates of Preferment in the Navy shut against all but Gentlemen born; I do not so much as dream, I assure you, that even the Seminary, were it to take place, would solely consist of such. I still less dare to propose, that others, not educated there, should be looked upon as unqualified for Commissions. Let Merit have free Scope: for of this provided only there is a sufficient Fund, no matter how, where, nor whence it was acquired. Whosoever shall distinguish himself by his good Behaviour in general, or by some eminent Act of Service in his Station, let him be rewarded to the Height of his Capacity. This, however, ought to be well considered and known, since to prefer People beyond the Sphere of their Abilities, would be no less an Injury to themselves than to the Public.

Pis. As it was no more than a supposed Objection, I drop it easily, without, however, repenting that I started it. By that means I have drawn from you some Reflections, with which I am perfectly pleased;
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not that the Thoughts are new to me, but I like your Manner of expressing them.

I doubt another Objection will be made to your Plan, even by those who shall acknowledge its laudable Nature and Purpose. They will say, some perhaps think, that it is impossible the Time which can reasonably be spared or allotted to the Business of the Seminary, should suffice for such an extensive Education.

Galb. You will perceive, if you recollect what I said before, *Piso*, that I was aware of this Objection. I took notice, that the great Point was such a Foundation in the Principles of Knowledge, as would afterwards enable Men to go what Lengths they please. So great a Connection is there between the different Branches of it, that if a judicious Method shall be followed, much may be done in a little Time; provided especially that the Youth have been properly taught at School; which, as I remarked already, would probably be the Case more and more.

Here I shall add a Reflection, which seems wanted: Let a Plan of this sort be never so well framed and digested in Speculation, when it comes to be put in Practice, many small, and some essential, Improvements will occur. We may therefore suppose, that the general Method for compassing the

whole Aim of the Seminary would, after due Trial, become more correct and expeditious.

Pis. I have done with Objections, *Galb.*

The chief Point which wants to be further explained, is, the Length of Time necessary for such a Course of Education, and in what Manner that Time should be divided betwixt the Seminary and the Sea.

Galb. Experience, after a proper Execution of the Plan, must regulate the Point in question. Lest such an Answer should not seem particular enough, I shall suppose seven Years the Time fixed; three of which, the first, middlemost, and last, to be spent at the Seminary. From this general Rule the Nature of the Sea-Service will frequently cause a Deviation; and sometimes the real Interest of the Youth, from their Cast of Character and Disposition, will require it. To the great Point of effectually doing the Business every Rule and Regulation must be taught to submit.

Pis. A few Reflections on the Number and Sort of Masters necessary will release you from my Hands. I shall then resign my Task of Censorship to your Friend *Camillus*.

Galb. For carrying on the Plan of Education on Shore, seven Masters, the Intendant included, will, I presume, suffice. Of these one is to teach Navigation, with
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whatever appertains to the perfect Knowledge of that Art. The rest are to direct and superintend the Studies of the Youth; to form their Minds and Morals; and in short, by the Means, and according to the Method, mentioned before, to fulfil the Task of the Seminary.

They should be Men of a general Erudition, and to the Knowledge of Life, and Human Nature, join a consummate Integrity; from every Vice exempt, but chiefly from the Love of Money, that utter Bane of Merit. Oeconomy, the sovereign Preservative against Want, which frequently begets Avarice, and dishonest Dealings, is indeed a noble and necessary Virtue, that the Masters should strictly practise, and, by their Example as well as Precept, strongly recommend to the Youth; but far from the Seminary be the vile Lust of Gold, and dirty Gain!

It is, beyond Dispute, a Matter of the last Concern and Moment, that the Minds of Officers should be firmly fortified against the Beginnings of this low Passion, which, as soon as it comes to prevail, like a pernicious Grub, nestles in the Heart of Man, and devours the Root of every great and generous Sentiment. Were I to mention the dreadful Effects of Avarice in our Fleet, and the foul Havock it makes on the Spirit and Conduct of Commanders, it would appear, *Piso*,
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that all other Vices together scarcely produce such a Train of mischievous Consequences.

Why should I confine my Remark to the Sea? since to Gold, that opprobrious Idol, not only the Rabble of Mankind in general, but often Persons of high Denominations, Peers, Patriots, and even Priests, with an execrable Devotion, offer up their Country, Character, Conscience, and Peace of Mind.

Pis. Let it be confessed, to the Glory of the present Age, *Galba*, that it has now first become fashionable to worship Money without a Mask, to avow the narrow Principle of Self-Love, and, with an Air of Wisdom, to laugh at Public Spirit and Posterity.

Galb. Such profane Jokers may, for aught I know, be Men of great Wit; but I am sure they must be shallow Politicians; otherwise, while they toil at accumulating their beloved Wealth, they would beware of sapping the Foundation of it. In a free Country private Property, *Pisò*, can only be well secured by the prosperous Condition of the Public; and that this chiefly flows from the sort of Spirit they madly ridicule, a Person may see without being a profound Reasoner.

Pis. To do them Justice, *Galba*, they sincerely wish, that Sea-Commanders were Men of primitive Principles, who should be-

behave with true Spirit on all Occasions; and, to Money-getting Schemes of their own, prefer Honour, and the public Interest. No doubt their Motive is, that they themselves may, without Risk or Fear, enjoy their Wealth and Luxury. But why should I mention their Motive? If you can but once convince them, that the Plan of Education you propose bids fair to produce the desired Effect, you may certainly depend on their utmost Zeal in promoting it; and, considering their great Number and Influence, give me Leave to say, that I look upon this as no small Encouragement to hope for Success.

Galb. It were to be wished, *Pisò*, that a Set of Masters could be found, who, besides being thoroughly qualified in all other respects, had passed some Part of their Time on board a Ship of War; because they would thereby be more able to judge of the Duty which his Majesty's Service will require at their Hands. This indeed can hardly be the Case at first; for which Reason, such of them as are absolutely Strangers to the Sea, should, methinks, make a Voyage or two, with the different Crops of the Seminary, for their own Improvement, as well as for the Benefit of their Pupils.

Another desirable Effect will follow from this; they would better understand how to form and educate Sea-Schoolmasters. Of
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such to secure a proper Succession at all times, I cannot think of a more effectual Method, than to take Youths, of promising Dispositions and Parts, who shall at other Schools have distinguished themselves by their assiduous Application, and great Progress; and to qualify them, by the same Rules as the rest, for their future Station. These, as soon as ripe for the Business, should be created Fellows of the Seminary, with suitable Encouragement; and should afterwards, when their Behaviour is void of Reproach, according to their Seniority, succeed in the vacant Room of Masters.

It would be ridiculous, at present, to pretend exactly to point out how many School-masters will be required. Their Number must correspond to the Ships of War in which it shall be thought convenient to disperse the Youth, while under the Direction of the Seminary.

You, *Piso*, by what I have said, are, I hope, satisfied, in some measure. If *Camillus* has any Sea-Objections to propose, I must beg him to be brief; for I begin to be sick of the Subject.

Cam. The Remarks I shall make, are not of a Sea-Nature, *Galba*; to convince you, that you might have spared, at this Time, your unnecessary Sneer on my Profession. I find no room for any serious Objection to what you have said; and, perhaps, I am not less

less pleased than *Piso*: though my Censure or Approbation will, I suppose, appear of smaller Consequence to you. But how much soever I relish your Plan in general, you must allow me to think it defective in a few particular Points; which, as you desire, I shall briefly mention.

Among the Studies of the Seminary, you forgot to place one which almost deserved to be taken notice of first; I speak of the Art of Thinking, or a System of Logic, reduced to common Sense, and fairly disencumbered from the metaphysical Jargon of the Schools. Mr. *Locke's* sagacious Treatise on the Human Understanding, will suggest noble Hints for a Compend here, such as suits the laudable Genius of your Plan. My great Obligations to that Book occasion this Remark; to which, if you find it for your Purpose, you are heartily welcome.

Galb. There is a glaring Justice in the Remark. A few more, of equal Value, will not only much improve the Plan, *Camillus*, but, as it were, snatch it out of my Hands, and transfer the principal Praise to you.

Cam. I have at least snatched a Compliment from you, which, as a Seaman, I did not expect, and which I am not at present in an Humour to return, for fear I should trespass against your Rules of Brevity, *Galba*.

Astronomy, perhaps, as an Article appertaining to Navigation, did not require to be

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named: but what say you to the Knowledge of natural Causes, experimental Philosophy, the Laws of Mechanism? Surely these deserved a Place in your Catalogue of Studies fit for the Seminary. Would not a compendious System be proper? Barely to mention Fortification and Gunnery, will suggest an obvious Remark.

My next Reflection concerns the polite modern Languages, particularly the *French*; which, doubtless, you deem necessary, tho' you likewise forgot to speak of it.

Galb. No, *Camillus*, I would not have you think, that my not mentioning *French*, was owing to want of Memory: The great and essential Points of Education, which form the Heart and Head, were the single Subject I proposed to speak upon; taking it for granted, that other Things would of Course be considered, according to their various Degrees of Importance.

Since my Sentiments about the *French* Tongue are required, I think it highly necessary, to be sure; but, at the same time, I suppose, that the Youth will have often learned it elsewhere, at a more proper Age: for teaching those that have not, and for the further Improvement of such as have, the Seminary should entertain a Person completely qualified.

Here again the vast Use of *Latin* appears, which, once well understood, secures the rapid
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Acquisition of *French*, and its Sister-Languages, *Spanish* and *Italian*. Subdued of old by the victorious Speech of *Rome*, they still retain so large a Portion of it, as, with Justice, to be termed but different Corruptions of the same Original.

By just taking Notice, that the genteel Exercises, Dancing, Fencing, Riding, should be duly minded, and proper Masters entertained for that Purpose, I shall probably anticipate another censorious Remark.

Cam. Drawing is the present Subject of my Thoughts; an Art not only curious in itself, but extremely fit for Seamen, as it may be turned to great Use in their Business. The Preferment formerly, without Solicitation, given to some who luckily distinguished themselves by this laudable Accomplishment, was therefore much to the Credit of their Patrons. Let me, besides, observe to you, that the *Portsmouth* Academy, however deficient in more essential Points of Education, bestows, I am told, a good deal of Pains upon this.

Galb. So far am I from finding Fault with the just Regard you pay to Drawing, which, as indeed you well observe, is an useful Art, that, for the mere Embellishment of Taste, I think the Principles of Painting, and its Rules of Criticism, should be taught and explained at the Seminary. Competent Notions of these might, I believe, be soon got,

by such as have learned to judge of the Beauties of Poetry ; between which and Painting there is so great an Affinity, that the same Sort, and almost the same Perfection, of Genius are required for both.

Finding myself forced, by your Remarks, to mention the minuter Points, or rather the Sports, of Education, I recommend the Theory of Music for a generous Pastime. It is not at all necessary, that the Youth should learn to be Performers ; though, when their Inclination leads them, and their Leisure will admit of it, I see no Reason why they might not, even in this respect, indulge their Genius ; but, without that, their Ear, if naturally well-disposed, may be taught easily to relish, with Judgment, the poetical Combinations of Sound, and Force of Harmony.

Persons entertained for the several Purposes last-mentioned should have no further Concern with the Youth, than as it shall strictly relate to the particular Province of each. To the Seven Masters first named, and, in a subordinate Conjunction with them, to the Fellows of the Seminary, the general Conduct of the Plan must intirely be committed, and the whole Power vested in their Hands.

Cam. I have but one thing to suggest more. The Naval Academies of *France* are extoll'd by some. Possibly valuable Hints might

might be taken from thence. In that Case, I recommend borrowing.

Galb. We deal too much in borrowed Understanding, and often foolishly neglect a richer Fund at Home. Would but the Natives of this thoughtful Climate bestow due Pains on cultivating their Capacities, and afterwards boldly trust to their own Judgments, they might, with Ease, surpass all Nations in solid Sense, and, instead of borrowing, lend Wisdom to their Neighbours.

Misconstrue me not, *Camillus*; as Matters stand, I am far from being against imitating, much less against improving, the laudable Examples of other Countries. If *France* can furnish us with Hints to mend our Plan, in some Particulars, however trifling, why should we not take them? But let us first of all teach our Youth things altogether inconsistent with the Genius and Education of *France*; a Religion, undebauched by Priestcraft with impious and immoral Absurdities, a Greatness of Mind, founded on true public Spirit and Freedom, and a Loyalty void of Servitude.

Cam. I declare myself fully satisfied, *Galba*. Your Plan, as it appears to me, has all that is required in Theory. That it may meet with the favourable Reception which *Piso* fancies it will, and by that means obtain its ultimate Perfection in Practice, ought,

I think, to be the Wish of the Nation, and of the Navy particularly.

Besides qualifying Officers to behave like Heroes in the Service of the Public, it is worth while to consider the private Fund of Happiness and solid Satisfaction which it would procure to themselves. On what, with such Pleasure and Propriety, can they bestow their Sea-Leisure, of which Commanders at least have an ample Portion, as on the delicious Pursuit of Knowledge, and on conversing with the wise and illustrious Dead? Could we but once teach them to relish this savoury Food of the Mind, instead of gross Intemperance, and criminal Pastimes, which are frequently called upon to murder innocent Hours, they would then find a perpetual Source of honest Pleasure at hand, of which they might enjoy the Remembrance without Shame. Thus to most of them their Element and Business might cease to seem Objects of Aversion and Horror; and when they reflected on the rational and manly Method of passing their Time at Sea, the vain and fashionable Amusements of the Shore, would lose Ground in their Affection and Esteem.

Galb. Your sensible and seasonable Remark, *Camillus*, brings another to my Mind, which I think of greater Consequence. The vast, and, in a manner, unlimited Power of Captains, renders it above all Things neces-

fary that their Passions should be subject to the strict Government of Reason, and their Hearts filled with high Sentiments of Justice and Humanity. Where the Case is otherwise, dreadful and daily Scenes of Oppression and Cruelty must happen.

Cam. A thousand other Arguments, which to Men who think at all, will occur easily, might here be made use of in favour of a virtuous and liberal Education; but there is one Obstacle which, I am afraid, will strongly stand in the Way.

The Seminary proposed must prove a large additional Expence to the Public, at a time too when it is more than ever necessary to retrench. That a Plan of this Nature should take place, will perhaps appear to most a Point of great Importance, of the greatest to some; to none, I assure you, can it seem more so than to myself; but the Question is, Whether those, who can alone, by their Approbation and Countenance, procure it Success, will, considering the vast Demand for public Oeconomy, deem the present Execution of it proper.

Pis. The Word *Oeconomy*, like the Names of other Virtues, is often grossly misunderstood. I grant that the stupendous Load of Debt under which the Kingdom groans, requires the strictest Savings, and, instead of fresh Superfluities of Expence, a thousand Retrenchments: but surely these can only
be

be thought political and proper, where the public Interest is least, or not at all, concerned.

Would any Man, for Example, of a sober Mind, advise the Government to reduce their Ships of War to a smaller Number than is absolutely sufficient for our Defence and Safety? By such as consider the Present only, this might be called a prodigious Saving; for the Charge of Ships and Naval Stores is incredible: but who can help perceiving, that the plain and dreadful Consequence must be, frequent Indignities first, and a pernicious War soon, since the Weakness of a Country is, to powerful and ambitious Neighbours, at all times, the most effectual Source of Provocation? Should an improbable Deliverance happen, our great Efforts, and disadvantageous Struggle, must nevertheless occasion such a Deluge of Debt, that even in that respect we should pay dear for our Oeconomy. The worse our Situation grows, and the more our Danger increases from the Continent, so much in proportion stronger ought our Attention to be to the noble Barrier with which Nature has surrounded us.

A sufficient Force of Ships, *Camillus*, is not of more Importance to the Public than the Point aimed at in *Galba's* masculine Project of Education: for till once our Ships of War come to be better commanded, and
better

better officer'd in general, vainly do we talk of our mighty Squadrons, and vainly boast of our expert and gallant Seamen. Not to mention smaller Infamies, from what so much as the fatal Misconduct of a superior Fleet, and the strange irredeemable Loss of an Opportunity, such as our Fathers never had, and our Posterity may wish for in vain, did the present *French* War derive its audacious Original?

In short, had a Plan like *Galba's* been set afoot and established forty Years ago, perhaps it might have saved as many Millions to the Nation. Let the Charges appear what they will, I am therefore of Opinion, that no sensible Friend to his Country can think them a sufficient Objection at any Time; least of all at this.

Cam. Have you made any sort of Calculation, *Galba*? Not an exact one; for that is not necessary now, but, as it were, a probable Conjecture at the general yearly Sum which you presume will answer the Demands of the Seminary, when completely formed.

Galb. The common Calculation or Estimate used for his Majesty's Sea Service, at the Rate of 4 *l.* a Month *per* Man, would, I believe, almost answer here, if we suppose the Number not be less than 140. In that Case it would amount to 7000 *l.* a Sum not quite equal to the computed annual Ex-

pence of a Twenty-gun Ship of War. Of this Estimate two Thirds may be required for the Salaries of Masters; and for all other Articles of Expence, I conjecture that the remaining Third would suffice.

Cam. It is, I suppose, Part of your Scheme, *Galba*, that the King should bear the whole Charge, and that the Parents of the Youth should in no Shape contribute towards it.

Galb. Surely you did not imagine that I meant a School for Boarders all the while I was speaking of a Royal Seminary, *Camillus*, suitable to the Grandeur of a mighty Kingdom; where Persons, as soon as admitted, shall enter into their Sovereign's Service, and should therefore eat at his Table.

Cam. I am apt to think, that the Number in the Seminary, Masters of every sort, and Servants included, would exceed your Supposition, and by that means increase your Estimate: But should the Sum rise to Ten, instead of Seven thousand Pounds a Year, surely no Person that approves the Plan will begrudge it; since even then, from an obvious Calculation, scarcely could the one Half of it be look'd upon as an additional Expence.

Not to mention the *Portsmouth* Academy, the present Provision for Schoolmasters, however defective and insufficient for each, must amount to something considerable in the Whole, by reason of their great and, perhaps,

haps, needless Number. At the King's Cost likewise the Youth now bred up at Sea for Officers are victualled ; and though their Diet may be less wholesome, the Difference in Point of Expence is small.

Pis. Should nothing more appear necessary to be said, I can easily tell, *Galba*, what remains to be done. You must draw your Plan up in the Form you will like best, and, without Loss of Time, lodge it in proper Hands. Perhaps no Form will better suit than that in which it has appeared first, the Form of a Dialogue. In that Case you have nothing more to do but to sit down, recollect and write at your Leisure the Substance of this Evening's Conversation. As you have had such an extraordinary Share in it, the Task to you will not be difficult.

Strong Conceptions utter themselves, and, as I question much whether you could have expressed yours to more Advantage, I would have you recollect not only your Sentiments, but likewise, as near as possible, your very Words.

Camillus may boldly stand upon his own Bottom. Having spoke with a remarkable Correctness and Spirit, he does not need the Favour which I shall ask for myself ; that you would mend and polish my Reflections, and sometimes put in my Mouth, rather what I should have said, than what I did actually say.

Cam. Galba, who knows my Capacity to a Hair, and has weighed my Genius in a Balance, might well wonder at my want of Shame, if I did not seriously request the Favour, which you, *Piso*, merely by way of Compliment, have asked. I shall only caution him not to deviate from my true Sentiments, because I am neither willing to part with these, nor ambitious to shine in borrowed ones. As to the Manner of expressing what I sincerely think, the more he mixes of his own Style, I shall consider myself as the greater Gainer by the Bargain.

Galb. You are excessively merry with me, Gentlemen; but, perhaps, I shall have the Pleasure of being up with you both soon, and of returning the Compliment in kind. Without Ceremony, without Delay, to shew my thorough Submission to your Will, I shall set about the Task which you require at my Hands. But, I give you fair Warning, that I have one of the same Nature in store for each of you; which, as soon as I have finish'd my Dialogue, I shall insist upon your not declining.

I am at you first, *Camillus*. There is an Affair of a worse Stamp, if possible, and more dangerous in its Consequences, than that Neglect of Education we have been discouraging of; an Affair which requires the severest Inspection, and, as the Safety, rather than the Interest, of the Public, is deeply

deeply concerned, the quickest and most effectual Remedy. 'Tis a Subject which I have heard you talk upon at times, with so much Strength and Propriety, that I know you to be well qualified for it. You must therefore prepare, as soon as it comes in Play, to be the principal Speaker.

Cam. How should I guess what Subject you mean, *Galba*?

Galb. What other can I mean, after such a pompous Preamble, but the great and grievous Hardships under which Officers, as well as Seamen, have long labour'd? For some of these, particularly for that distressful Method used in manning Ships of War, you can, if I mistake not, propose, and point out, practicable Schemes of Redress. My Censure and Assistance, when necessary, shall not be wanting; and, if we should happen to differ sometimes, let *Piso* judge between us.

Cam. Were I not aware of your headstrong Way, *Galba*, which cannot brook Excuses of any Sort, I might, without a sham Pretence of Modesty, decline the formidable Task; but, being very sensible, that nothing can convince you besides Facts, and unanswerable Experience, I wave a superfluous Dispute; and, if *Piso* will only name the Time and Place for our next Conversation, I promise you beforehand, that you shall be heartily welcome to my most secret Sentiments

ments on the Subject you propose, or any other.

Pis. Since you leave the thing to me, what say you to *Greenwich Park* next *Thursday Morning*? Should neither Business, nor a prior Engagement, interfere, I pray you to favour me with your Company that Day, to dine at a Friend's of mine, not far from thence, to whom I make an annual Visit, in this delightful Season of the Year. Last Night I received a Letter from him, naming *Thursday* for the Day: which Invitation I have accepted. He constantly leaves it in my Choice, to fill my Coach with what Guests I like best. You two were the first I pitch'd upon; and, considering the Scheme in hand, I believe it will be better not to think of a fourth, for fear he should incumber us. We will, if you please, set out betimes, and enjoy the beautiful Situation I spoke of for a Couple of Hours, or more, according as the Length of *Camillus's* Remarks shall require. By your Silence, you seem to give Consent. Come, *Galba*, the Cloth is, I fancy, laid for Supper, in the next Room. After your great Fatigue of Thought, a Glass of generous Wine will, I dare swear, not prove unacceptable to you.

Galb. To confess the Truth, I am excessively tired, and in a manner quite exhausted; for which Reason I solemnly protest against all serious Conversation in the next Room.

That there may be no plausible Pretence for it, before we go, let me just put you in Mind of an Affair which has escaped you both. Pray, what am I to do with my Dialogue, when finished? and in whose Hands must I lodge it?

Pis. As I before insinuated, the Lords of the Admiralty would seem to be by far the properest Persons. To them, among the great and important Duties of their Station, it appertains to receive, read, and examine, whatever Proposals shall evidently relate to the Good of his Majesty's Navy. Whether you know some of them or not, is of small Consequence, since your Plan must fairly stand on the Footing of Merit, not of Interest. Why should you therefore hesitate a Moment in resolving to present it, with Dignity, to that Right Honourable Board; as a Plan, which indeed claims their Consideration first, but which afterwards may claim the Notice of the Legislature?

Galb. I foresaw, *Piso*, that your Answer would be such. Possibly your Advice is good; and, because *Camillus* says I am headstrong, you shall find me ready to comply with it, if, after a fair Hearing, he does not approve of a previous Step which occurs to me.

Would not an abrupt Application to such a Board of Business, and high Rank, favour somewhat of Presumption, *Camillus*, and give
strong

strong Cause to suspect, that the Person who presented a Plan in so blunt a manner, entertained too favourable an Opinion of his own Performance? Besides, as ridiculous Schemes are, no doubt, offered to them daily, is it not highly probable, that this would immediately be lump'd with the rest, and consequently thrown aside without Examination?

What therefore if I should first of all submit it to the Censure of a complete and unexceptionable Judge, whose Advice might absolutely determine my further Resolutions concerning it, and whose Approbation would warrant to myself the course of Dignity which *Piso* recommends? By taking such a previous Step, *Camillus*, I shall avoid violating those nice Punctilio's of Modesty, to which I have hitherto with great Strictness adhered; and let the Success be what it will, I shall have no Cause to repent of my Conduct.

I would have neither of you think, that, in this, I shew the least Disrespect to your Opinions; for which I shall ever retain the highest Regard. But the plain Truth is, that, notwithstanding the Compliments paid to me, you must both be considered as in part Authors of the Plan, and cannot therefore be deem'd disinterested and proper Judges. I have done.

Cam. The previous Step you talk of, *Galba*, meets with my Consent and Approbation

tion the sooner, because I guess at the Person
whom you propose to consult.

Pis. This last Point being settled; come,
Gentlemen.

F I N I S.



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